



# View from the Blackdown Hills

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Issue 69 June 2010

## Tour of Britain cycle race comes to the hills

ONCE again the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is gearing up to welcome the Tour of Britain.

Britain's premier cycle race will be coming to the Blackdown Hills for both of the South West stages. The Blackdown Hills

AONB will provide challenging terrain and a striking backdrop for this prestigious race on September 14th and 15th

2010.

At approximately 12 noon on both of the race days, the tour will pass through the Blackdown Hills. On the Tuesday the route passes through the villages of Hemyock, Dunkswell and Awliscombe, and on the Wednesday, cyclists will race into Hemyock once again, this time from the west through Culmstock.

They will then face a steep 1 in 5 climb, a sprint along the straight, fast ridge road, then down through the village of Staple Fitzpaine and then to the finish at Glastonbury.

Blackdown Hills AONB Manager, Linda Bennett said: "The Blackdown Hills are a fabulous area for cycling, whether racing, touring, training or simply exploring the hidden valleys and villages."

"We are delighted that the tour is coming through the area, not least because it will give the Blackdown Hills its due recognition as a top location for cycling in the South West."

Robin Bevis, Devon County Council's Tour of Britain Project Manager, said: "With its many steep

climbs and descents, fast straight sections and twisting lanes, the Blackdown Hills were a logical route for the tour to take and they will prove to be technically demanding stretches."

On the lead up to the Tour of Britain the Blackdown Hills AONB team are encouraging people to get on their bikes, with opportunities for any cyclist or any ability to get involved in a charity cycle ride for Prostate Cancer.

Mr Bevis added: "People of all abilities will be able to join in with the spirit of the big race by taking part in the Prostate Cancer

Charity Tour Ride and shorter rides on September 5th.

"The tour ride will follow the stage four route, again taking cyclists through the Blackdown Hills, and helping to raise the profile of the area for cycling."

For further information about the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty visit [www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk](http://www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk) and for details about the Tour of Britain visit [www.tourof-britain.co.uk](http://www.tourof-britain.co.uk).

To find out more about the Charity Ride visit [www.tourride.co.uk](http://www.tourride.co.uk).



## Tractor trundle

■ MORE than 40 tractors descended on Chardstock for the Village's annual tractor trundle.

Forty tractor drivers went on a trundle across the Blackdowns passing through Tatworth, Forton and Winham where they stopped for a quick break, and then on to Thorncombe and Hawkchurch before returning to Chardstock, where drivers enjoyed a ploughman's lunch prepared by Glo Fowler and her sister Mary.

The event raised £400 for charity and organisers would like to thank everyone who took part for all their help and support.

Pictured are tractors arriving at The Squirrel Inn, Winham for a break.

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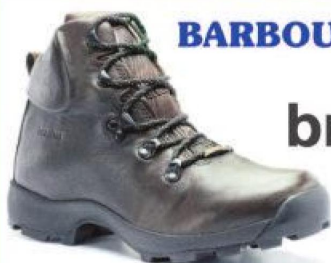
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*The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Blackdown Hills Business Association or the Blackdown Hills AONB*

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# Otter Mild takes gold award at beer festival

THE new seasonal brew from Devon's Otter Brewery has just scooped Gold at the South West's most popular beer festival.

Otter Mild, one of the 334 Westcountry beers on offer at the 18th annual Tuckers Maltings Beer Festival in Newton Abbott, finished top in the "Milds" class less than a month after being unveiled to the trade.

Now in its 18th year, and organised by the Society of Independent Brewers, judges inspected each of the beers for clarity, colour and flavour before announcing the winners of the nine different categories.

The "Milds" class (up to four per cent in strength) contained entries from across Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, Dorset and Wiltshire with Otter Mild surprising everyone in this, its debut competition.

Made using a selection of traditionally malted barley and Challenger and English Fuggles hops, Otter Mild is currently available at specially selected pubs across the South West.

Patrick McCaig, Otter's Sales and

Marketing Director, is thrilled by this latest award.

He said: "Mild is a low gravity beer that was principally drunk in the Midlands and Northern England.

"Once it was sold in every pub, but Mild experienced a catastrophic fall in popularity after the 1960s and was in danger of completely disappearing.

"As a family run brewery we feel exceptionally proud to have been able to help re-introduce this style of beer and also to produce a session beer with such a soft and distinctive mouth feel.

"Dad grew up drinking Mild so this has been a bit of a pet project for him. He is over the moon to have won Gold during the blind tasting from some very experienced judges."

Wetherspoons have also just announced Otter Mild was their customer's second favourite beer at the nationwide pub chain's annual "International Real Ale Festival".

The month long event is held every April and features 50 specially chosen national and international beers accompanied by full tasting notes.



◆ JULIAN Grocock from the Society of Independent Brewers presenting the gold award to Patrick McCaig from the Otter Brewery

# Safe cycling in Farway



◆ PUPILS at Farway Primary School have been getting to grips with the road by taking part in safe cycle training. Local police officers PC Steve Speariett and PCSO Mike McGauley visited the school to carry their "Bike Ability" cycle training for years five and six.

They checked the bikes and equipment including helmets and pupils were given instructions on braking, steering and bike handling. In the afternoon they had a session on the road putting in place all the skills they had learnt during the day. The day ended with a test ride, which all pupils passed.

## Getting the crowds buzzing in Stockland

A FARM near Stockland is hoping to get the crowds buzzing with their bumble bee day.

Goren Farm, near Stockland, will be hosting a bumble bee awareness day in conjunction with the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust.

Guided walks will take place around the farm focusing on bees and their habitats in the wild flower meadow and advice will be given on how to help

bees thrive.

Light refreshments will be served throughout the day and bee related produce will be on sale.

The bumble bee day will take place on Saturday, June 19th from 10am until 6pm.

Guided walks will begin at 10.30am and 2.30pm.

For more information contact Julian Pady on (01404) 881335.

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## Helping heroes

A BLACKDOWN Hills church will be hosting a fundraising event for Help for Heroes.

The Heritage Theatre will present "Lest We Forget" at Combe St Nicholas Church on Friday, June 25th.

The evening's entertainment will begin at 7.30pm.

Entry is free however there will be a retiring collection for Help for Heroes.

## Summer fayre

COMBE St Nicholas Primary School will be holding their annual summer fayre later this month.

The fayre promises stalls, activities and games for children and big kids alike.

The school summer fayre will take place on Saturday, June 12th at the school from 12noon-3pm.

## Membury walk

THE Blackdown Hills Walking group will be staging a walk around Membury.

The six-mile walk will take hikers from Membury, visiting Membury Castle, passing through Brinscombe Copse, Twist and Reads Hill Farm to Chardstock where there will be an opportunity for a short stop for refreshments. Walkers will then return to Membury via Holy City, Challenger Cross and Furley Cross.

The walk will take place on Saturday, June 26th starting from Membury Village Hall at 10am.

For more information contact Tim Pitcher on (01404) 881512.

## Pupils get gardening

PUPILS at Hemyock Primary School have been encouraged to get out in the garden thanks to a donation of seeds.

The Hemyock Gardeners' Association have donated packets of Sunflower seeds (courtesy of Dobies of Paignton), compost and pots to the school.

The seeds will be sown and grown by the pupils and it is hoped that sunflowers will bloom in and around Hemyock as a result and that the children enter their flowers in the Hemyock Gardeners' Association Autumn Show in the Parish Hall, later this year.

# Hemyock Parish council achievements celebrated

MORE than 60 villagers turned out to hear about Hemyock Parish Council's achievements and plans for the year ahead at their annual parish meeting.

The council organised posters and displays highlighting their achievements and aims including information about the ongoing allotment debate, plans for a new raised footway over the flood-

plain to Millhayes.

Village organisations also contributed to the meeting with written reports on their year's activities, and other village groups had posters and gave out information.

Chairman of Hemyock Parish Council, Heather Stallard, gave a brief talk highlighting what had been achieved,

what was planned and some of the issues facing the council.

In addition, there were presentations about the Ring and Ride service, which is supported by the parish council, and the activities of the AONB, which has been successful in attracting grant money into Hemyock.

A brief talk about the new Blackdown Healthy Living Centre was given by Steven Reed.

Following the presentations, there was a wine and cheese selection provided by the parish council, and an opportunity to ask informal questions to the councillors and other exhibitors.



◆ MORE than 60 people turned out to the annual parish meeting



◆ THE parish council and other village organisations put up displays

## Transition movement hits the Blackdowns

A GROUP has formed to help encourage Blackdown Hills' communities to make the move into leading more sustainable, eco friendly lives.

The Blackdown Hills Transition group aim to encourage community action to reduce carbon reliance and support plans for reducing energy consumption.

The group forms part of an initiative called the Transition Network.

Selena Mitford from Blackdown Hills Transition said: "Our group started as many of us across the Blackdowns found we were meeting more and more like minds,

albeit from many and varied backgrounds, talking about strengthening local communities; sourcing

food, power; working together to make politics work for us; sharing lifts, food, land; understanding and protecting our services, jobs and landscape.

"We aim to provide a hub of information and support for all of the parishes in the Blackdowns whether creating parish plans or introducing particular transition initiatives for energy descent - the phasing out of reliance on the carbon economy."

For more information about the Blackdown Hills Transition Group visit [www.blackdownhillstransition.org](http://www.blackdownhillstransition.org).

# Uffculme School's Ten Tors success

UFFCULME School's Ten Tors teams once again triumphed in the annual challenge last month.

All teams completed their routes and every member of each team

finished.

The first team crossed the finish line in an all-time record breaking time of 10.42am on Sunday morning. All students arrived back by 3pm.

This year Uffculme students were represented by four teams. The school entered teams in the 45mile and 35mile sections and students from the school also joined the Cullompton Rugby Club team (35 miles) and South Molton team (45 miles).

This year the Uffculme 45mile team carried the Bastion Baton, the handle of a military stretcher, which represents the nation's support for our Armed Forces.



◆ ONE of the Ten Tors Team from Uffculme School

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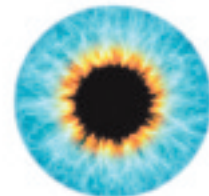


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The Oxford Shakespeare Company will be presenting a magical version with music of Shakespeare's late, great The Tempest this summer in a variety of historic open air venues in London and Oxford and for the fifth year running will also visit the Lamb & Flag in Blagdon Hill for two shows on 27th June. This marks the shared 400th anniversary of both the play and the founding of Wadham College in Oxford, where the company began, and will be part of the college's own celebrations. Directed by the celebrated director and writer Mick Gordon, who is himself a Wadham alumnus, the play will be given an original score by Nick Lloyd Webber.

The OSC has built on its original foundations as a regular summer presence in Wadham College Gardens and developed relationships with several spectacular parks, gardens and palaces over the last eight years, settings which add an extra, unique layer to their high quality productions. This year they will again come to Somerset to put on two shows at the Lamb & Flag where Landlord Mark Bond is both an old friend and an ex employee for the company. After performing in Blagdon Hill the Company returns to the Observatory Gardens at Greenwich Royal Park.

Said mark "Audiences who have attended shows in previous years have been delighted to see such high quality shows on their doorstep and we hope people will try and catch some wonderful outdoor theatre on 27th!"

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# Keeping traditions alive



◆ CHILDREN are lead by the Green Man

By Lisa Bright

PUPILS at Dalwood Primary School were keeping May Day traditions alive with their annual village maypole dancing.

The school hosted their annual May Festival outside the Tuckers Arms, Dalwood, which saw the children dance traditional dances around the maypole, lead by the "Green Man" also known as Brian Major.

They danced the "Spider's Web", "Barber's Pole" and did traditional plaiting to the sounds of Tony Drew and his accordion.

Acting Head Teacher Jane Sims said: "It is wonderful that pupils can experience the tradition of Maypole dancing and that knowledge of these dances can be passed on to future generations.

"The dancing sequences promote experience, good co-ordination, memory of patterns and team co-operation."

The children were taught the steps by Dalwood residents, Sue Drew and Kathy Lains.



◆ MOST of the school took part in their annual May festival



◆ FAMILIES gathered outside the Tucker's Arms to watch the dancing



◆ YOUNGSTERS were taught three Maypole dances, which took a lot of concentration by some of the little ones



◆ DANCING around the Maypole



◆ PUPILS danced the complicated Spider's Web



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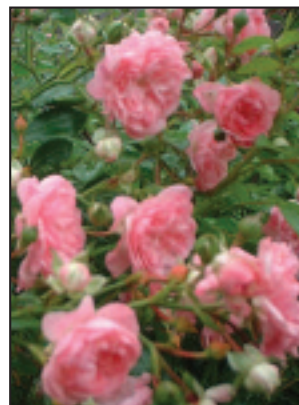
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## Gearing up for fete

ST James the Greater in Sheldon raised £338 from their Easter fayre and coffee morning.

Their next major fundraising event will be the church summer fete, which will take place on Saturday, July 10th.

## Record breakers?

HEMYOCK Primary School are aiming to be world record breakers as they join in the world's largest "walking bus".

They will be joining schools up and down the country to try and break and world record, while raising awareness about road safety.

Last year more than 100,000 children took part.

The world record attempt will take place on Wednesday, June 16th at 10am.

The event will coincide with the school's safety week. Other activities that will take place include a road safety show, bicycle safety and sessions about e-safety.

## Race night

VILLAGERS in Hemyock are able to enjoy a night at the races thanks to the local primary school.

Hemyock Primary school PTFA have organised a fundraising horse race night at the village hall.

The event will take place on Friday, June 11th. Doors open at 8pm with the first race at 8.30pm. There will be a licensed bar and a funniest hat competition.

## Coffee morning

A COFFEE morning and sale will be held in aid of Help for Heroes.

The event will take place at Grovelands Farm, Yacombe on Saturday, June 26th and will see a variety of stalls including plants, cakes, nearly new clothing, home-made produce and jewellery. There will also be games.

Entrance to the event will cost £1 with all proceeds going to Help for Heroes with events kicking off at 10am.

## Duck race

A DUCK race will be held next month organised by The Yacombe Children's Fund.

The race will take place at North Waterhayne Farm, Yacombe by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Bristol, on Saturday, July 3rd.

The race will begin at 4pm near Crawley Bridge on the A30.

Over events on the day will include a barbecue, bouncy castle, skittles, face painting and "It's a Knockout".

For more information phone Anna Podbery (01404) 861512.

## Open garden

A COUPLE from Marsh will be opening their garden for charity.

Tony and Francie Spiller from Fairway, Marsh will be opening their garden on Sunday, July 25th in aid of the Devon Air Ambulance.

Their garden will be open from 10.30am until 5pm.

# Fingers crossed for allotments' first year

WITH many people eager to grow their own vegetables, and with towns and villages across the country facing huge waiting lists for allotment sites, one Blackdown Hills community has been lucky enough to open a new allotment.

Villagers in Combe St Nicholas are celebrating the opening of the village's first allotment since before the war.

The project has taken only 16 months to get off the ground, with the 31-plot site giving villagers the opportunity to grow their own once more.

The project came in to fruition thanks to the village horticultural society.

Chairman of Combe St Nicholas Horticultural Society Rob Grimmond said: "In November 2008 the committee were approached and asked if there was any chance of establishing an allotment site in the village.

"The committee made a presentation to the parish council as by law they have to provide an allotment for the community if up to six people request it. We had eight people interested on our list."

While the search was then on to find suitable land within the village, they formed an allotment association, affiliated with National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners.

In August of last year they received an offer of some land and by the new year, the lease was signed.

Mr Grimmond said:



◆ CHAIRMAN of Combe St Nicholas Horticultural Society Rob Grimmond and his wife Kay at the new allotments

By Lisa Bright

"Once we got the land out membership shot up to 24 and now we have 31. We are now trying to build up a waiting list."

Allotment holders range in age from 18-years-old to 70-years-old, with a variety of people having taken up plots including families, partners as well as men and women on their own.

The village primary school even have their own plot with the school gardening club visiting the allotment every Friday to tend to their garden.

While many holders have some growing experience, some are complete novices.

As well enjoying the health benefits of growing their own fruit and vegetables, and working out in the great outdoors and taking in the fresh air, many people also enjoy the social benefits.

"It has brought people together," said Mr Grimmond. "We don't have many big projects in the village."

The allotment association now have their fingers crossed for a good growing year and they hope the weather will be kind in their first season.

"The first year is always going to be difficult with the growing conditions and soil," said Mr Grimmond. "Although we have quite good soil here, so we have our fingers crossed."

The Combe St Nicholas Allotment Association will be holding an official opening day on June 17th. They hope to invite their local NSLG representative and county councillor Jenny Kenton, who donated £250 towards the project.

As well as holding an

official opening day, the allotment association hope to organise a village day where they will open the allotment for the entire village to enjoy.

The event will take place on August Bank Holiday where there will be a sale of excess produce and people can look around the plots. They also hope to have a scarecrow competition and a sunflower competition.

Mr Grimmond said: "We've had lots of positive comments from the community. We hope that people will come along to our village open day, see what we do and sign up for the waiting list. It will be interesting to where we will be this time next year."

"We hope we can keep the allotment going and that it can still be here for the benefit of the community in the future. We hope it will be successful enough to keep it going."



◆ MEMBERS of Combe St Nicholas school gardening club tend to their plot

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HONITON	PO Old Inn Millers Farm Shop Offwell Stores Windmill Garage
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# YFC Show even bigger and better

HONITON Young Farmers Club held their second Annual Show and Sale of dairy, beef and sheep at Sedgemoor Auction Centre.

With 28 members showing 66 lots of stock this made the Show and Sale one of Honiton Young Farmers biggest events this year.

Honiton Young Farmer's Show secretary Linda Pidsley said: "We had tremendous support prior to the show with regards to sponsorship. We raised enough money to enable us to purchase six new trophies. We had extra classes, bigger prize money and we topped the market for dairy, beef and sheep prices on the day."

"This year we had 35 sponsors, which the club are truly grateful for their generous support. Our main sponsor was J & H Bunns LTD - Fertilizer manufacturers based in Falmouth."

There was a strong bulling heifer class with 13 entries, which was won by Jenna Rosewell and her heifer Walkabout Slowcoach 38. She received a South West Dairy Services voucher as part of the prize, beating off the Perry brother's Stuart and Winston, who were second and third.

Jenna also won Best Presented, sponsored by Mole Valley Forage Services LTD.

Judges David Chave and Mark Herrod had a battle between the Bartlett sisters in the milking heifer class, with Rebecca taking champion with Davlea Master Hazel. The champion received the Mole Valley Services LTD Shield and Sash, Semex Voucher and a photo to be profession-



By Linda Pidsley

ally taken of the Champion donated by Lucinda Morgan.

Sister Nicola came away with reserve champion and best presented.

Masons of Chudleigh sponsored the Beef Bullock class, which was the largest class of the day with 18 entries.

Judges Michael Alford of Stilman's butchers and Stuart Parris certainly had their work cut out. Champion Linda Pidsley and her Belgium Blue "Monty" received the Masons of Chudleigh Cup and Sash and a Hamblys Voucher.

She beat off strong competition from Lucy Reed and cousin Tom Reed who were second and fourth with Katie Maynard coming third.

Katie also who the R J Leach & son award for Best presented Stockmen.

Linda also won the D B Hawkins & son Cup for Best Presented.

The Beef Calf class, kindly sponsored by Michael Pidsley LTD, was

won by Kate Hopkins who received the Michael Pidsley LTD shield and sash. Kate beat off competition from brother and sister Linda and David Pidsley who were second and third.

Linda received reserve champion and she also gained the Best Presented Award sponsored by W T Baily & Willy Cobden Livestock.

Sheep judges Brian Clothier and Mark Snell had eight lots of couples to pick between with anything from three ewes and three lambs, to four ewes and 10 lambs, it proved to be a difficult task.

Both the West Devon Meat cup for best pen of lambs and the Alan Derrymen Shield for best pen of ewes and lambs were won by Nicola Bartlett, who also picked up the Honiton YFC Best Double in show.

Matt Tidball won the Yard Farm Shield Sponsored by J & J Tucker.

Matt Dymond, who was also second for Best Pen

of Ewes and Lambs and fourth for Best Pen of Lambs, won best single in the Show.

Sarah Pidsley went away with the Honiton YFC Best Triple in Show and third place in the Best Pen of Ewes and Best Pen of Ewes and Lambs.

Two new classes and trophies this year included Champion Beef and Champion Dairy Handler in show.

Nicky Bishop won the dairy and Linda Pidsley won the beef. Linda also won the F & M Martin Cup for most points in the show with 29 points, closely followed by Nicola Bartlett with 27 points.

Linda said: "Honiton YFC would like to give special thanks to everyone who supported them for their second annual show and sale. It was a huge success for everyone involved."

"Honiton YFC will be represented at the Devon County Show this year for the first time in many years so anyone going to the show please go down and support them."

## Top show for Culm Valley YFC

CULM Valley Young Farmers Club recently held their 63rd Annual Show and Sale.

The event was held at Exeter Market by kind permission of Exeter Market Auctioneers and saw a large turnout with some high-class stock throughout all sections of the show.

The supreme championship was awarded to new member Charlotte Alford of Ashill, who also took the novice champion award with her eye catching Limousin cross heifer.

The Down Calving Heifer section produced the Reserve Champion exhibited by Richard Barton of Stenhill.

Other worthy winners from the day included Mark Saunders with his Charolais cross Steer, Mark Davis with a Jersey and Dan Reed with his Holstein, in the Bulling Heifer classes; Tom Proll and his four ewes and lambs were awarded the

Champion Sheep prize with Kate Stevens taking 1st place with her well tamed Pet Lamb.

The champion within the Pig section was Stuart Persey with his outstanding Gilt and Litter of 12 piglets.

The club must express its thanks to Exeter Market Auctioneers for allowing use of the venue and facilities as well as the many sponsors whose generosity, support and donations allow the day to be such a success.

The awards from the show were presented at the club's annual dinner and dance which was held at Kentisbeare Village Hall.

Lionel Hill MBE, chairman of the National Young Farmers Federation, was the guest speaker and gave an enthusiastic and encouraging speech, inspiring the continuation of the traditional Young Farmers Club.

Results from the day  
Beef: Heifer - First: Charlotte Alford; Second: Mark Davis; Third: Mark Saunders.

Beef: Steer - First: Mark Saunders; Second: Scott Reed; Third: Harvey Pile.

Beef out of Dairy - First: Emily Vallis; Second: Amy Broomfield.

Dairy: Holstein Bulling Heifer - First: Dan Reed; Second: Laura Reed; Third: Amy Broomfield.

Dairy: Jersey Bulling Heifer - First: Mark Davis; Second: Sunny Selway; Third: Clare Davis.

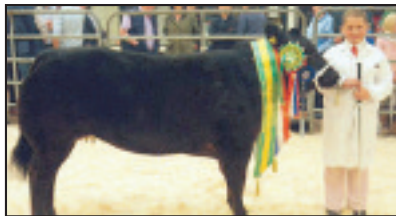
Holstein Down Calving Heifer - First: Richard Barton; Second: Vicky Reed; Third: Amy Broomfield.

Jersey Down Calving Heifer - First: Mark Davis; Second: Emily Vallis.

Sheep - First: Tom Proll; Second: James Westcott; Third: Martin Westcott.

Pigs - First: Stuart Persey; Second: Kathryn Persey; Third: Stuart Persey.

Pet Lamb Class - First: Kate Stevens; Second: Anna Cornish; Third: Hannah Stevens.

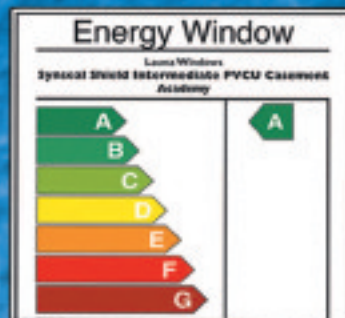


◆ SUPREME champion and novice champion Charlotte Alford of Ashill

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## News from around the villages in the Blackdown Hills

### HEMYOCK ACORNS

THE Hemyock Acorns have had an interesting year.

Although saddened by the deaths of two members, the Acorns have enjoyed recent meetings with talks from Spence Kingdon about his childhood, and musical entertainment from Brenda Pearsy.

Members also enjoyed a talk from Dr Gavin Haig plus an enlightening talk on Dementia, which was informative.

The Hemyock Acorns meet in Forbes Lounge, Hemyock, on the third Wednesday of each month. Visitors are welcome.

In the next few months the subjects will be Shelter Box with Roger Lambert, George and his dog continue with their travel tales and Dawn Canham will give a talk on Stage Costumes.

### SMEATHARPE WI

DUE to the absence of president Gill Dennis, vice president Liz Tucker conducted the May Meeting of Smeatharpe WI, beginning with a report from the minutes secretary and the committee secretary Gloria also reported on the Devon Federation Meeting in Torquay and the local group meeting, recently held by Stockland WI.

Elizabeth Badman was congratulated on her Wall Hanging entry for this event.

On behalf of all those who went to Salcombe, Liz Tucker thanked Pam Parry for once again arranging a wonderful seaside holiday.

After treasurer Pernelle Rowe announced the finances to be "just dandy", the members were notified of future activities, which included a canoeing day, a walk for charity and a farm open day.

Ann Salmon added to the list of events with Maureen Johnston's Country Fair, the Blackdown Hills Garden Club fixtures, the CBO bus trips and she explained to new members the year planner she maintains.

Sally Milnes reminded everyone about the "Charity Table" and invited all to her home on July 17th for an Ascot Ladies' Day.

Ann Slater reported that the dolls house renovation project had begun and takes place on a Tuesday morning at the home of Pam Parry from approximately 10.30am.

The Women's Institute Resolution was discussed, with the argument for urging the Government to insist on food suppliers clearly labelling produce with the country of origin given by Gloria Dobinson and Liz Tucker putting forward the supplier's objections. The motion was carried unanimously.

It was reported that Hemyock WI will represent Smeatharpe at the national AGM in Cardiff.

Everyone listened intently to guest speaker, Joanna Steele Perkins, who described the different female categories of body shapes and advised the members how they should choose clothes for their figures and their personalities.

The competition of a "decorated handbag" was won by Viv Henderson and Ann Slater's tulip won the "Flower of the Month".

A Fish and Chip supper followed by a Beetle Drive is

to be the highlight of the meeting in June. A full attendance is expected and new members will also be very welcome in Smeatharpe Village Hall at 7.30 pm. on June 3rd.

### BISHOPSWOOD LADIES

IN the absence of president Rosemary Viant members and friends were welcomed to the May meeting of Bishopswood Ladies by Rosemary Ward-Smith.

The skittlers had played two matches against Clayhidon and Hemyock, but unfortunately lost them both.

Both walking groups had been lucky enough to see some wonderful fields of primroses. The short walk was from West Monkton and was over some very attractive countryside. The day walk, enjoyed by 10 walkers, and led by Louise Knight, was very varied with beautiful views and ended with tea and cake at Membury Post Office.

The evening visit to Otter Breweries on June 3rd will cost £15 and will include a barbeque and samples. Partners and friends are very welcome.

The summer outing in August will be to Agatha Christie's house on the Dart.

Deirdre Cargan, a local funeral director, then gave a most interesting and at times, amusing, talk. Deirdre embarked on this unusual career after feeling disappointed about the way in which her father's funeral was arranged, and later took over her own business. She is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is busiest during major football tournaments, when male funeral directors are otherwise engaged!

Deirdre has conducted funerals for people of every

religion and none.

Funerals cost on average, £2,500 to £3,000 and nowadays there is a great deal of choice in the way that they can be conducted. Relatives bring all manner of objects to be put in the coffin, sometimes including the favourite food or drink of the deceased. She asked that people should keep a note of the details of how they would like their funeral conducted, since this is such a help to bereaved relatives. However, she suggested that wishes should not go as far as those of one lady who, unable to have her body transported to Africa, requested that it should be given to the vultures in London Zoo!

Even after this, members managed to enjoy the excellent refreshments provided by Pamela Bamber, Claudine Tyson and Hazel Tucker.

The June meeting will be replaced by the visit to Otter Breweries.

### HEMYOCK GARDENERS

THE Hemyock Gardeners held their first spring sale of plants on last month.

Organiser reported it was a great success and with stallholders selling out of bedding plants in a very short time.

Fortunately Sandra Featherstone had organised coffee and cakes, which kept buyers happy throughout the morning.

Members of the committee were very pleased with the morning and would like to thank all those who supported the event and assure people that next year there will be more plants available.

Here at the Wheelwright Inn, we go a long way to maintain our award winning cuisine.

Our experienced chefs are passionate about using the very best, locally sourced ingredients; from flappingly fresh seafood and perfectly butchered meats, to meltingly moreish pastries and crisp, young seasonal vegetables - a dedication to quality that has to be sampled to be believed. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Contact Gary Valentine on 01297 552585  
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Neroche telephone: 01823 680846

[www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk](http://www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk)  
[www.nerochescheme.org](http://www.nerochescheme.org)

# Tour of Britain to race across the Blackdowns

ONCE more the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is gearing up to welcome the Tour of Britain, Britain's premier cycle race, and not just for one stage, but for both of the South West stages on 14th and 15th September 2010.

At around lunchtime on both

days, the tour will pass through the Blackdown Hills AONB.

On Tuesday the cyclists come into the AONB from Wellington, over the northern ridge and through the villages of Hemyock, Dunkeswell and Awliscombe.

On Wednesday the cyclists will

race into Hemyock once again, this time from the west through Culmstock.

They will then face a steep 1 in 5 climb, a sprint along the straight, fast ridge road, then down through the pretty village of Staple Fitzpaine and away to the finish at Glastonbury.

The Blackdown Hills are a fabu-

lous area for cycling, whether racing, touring, training or simply exploring the hidden valleys and villages.

The AONB team are delighted that the Tour is coming through the area, not least because it will give the Blackdown Hills its due recognition as a top location for cycling in the South West



◆ CYCLING in the Blackdown Hills

## There's a good dog!

NOW is a great time to get out and enjoy the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and many people will particularly enjoy walking their dogs.

However, late spring and early summer is the time when birds are nesting and feeding their young.

Many of our wild birds have declined in number and need all the help we can give them - ground nesting birds such as curlew, nightjar and skylark are particularly vulnerable to disturbance by dogs.

During this critical period though to 31st July, please keep your dog on a lead when walking in the countryside!

For more information, see the news item on our website: [www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk](http://www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk).

## Events in the AONB

◆ **FRIDAY 4 JUNE: MOTH TRAPPING EVENING AT STAPLE COMMON**  
From 8.30pm, call Mike Ridge on 01278 450793 for more information.

◆ **SATURDAY 5 JUNE – SUNDAY 6 JUNE: WILD FLOWER WEEKEND AT GOREN FARM**  
From 10am, call Julian Pady on 01404 881335 for more information.

◆ **SUNDAY 6 JUNE - BUTTERFLY WALK AT BUCKLAND WOOD**  
From 11am, call Michael Barry on 01823 451991 for more information.

◆ **WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE - PRACTICAL VOLUNTEERING DAY**  
From 10am – 3pm, call the Neroche Scheme office on 01823 680846 for more information.

◆ **THURSDAY 10 JUNE - BUTTERFLY WALK AT MOUNT FANCY FARM**  
From 11am, call John Davis on 01929400209 for more information.

◆ **SATURDAY 12 JUNE – SUNDAY 13 JUNE, WILD FLOWER WEEKEND AT GOREN FARM**  
From 10am, call Julian Pady on 01404 881335 for more information.

◆ **SUNDAY 13 JUNE: BUTTERFLY WALK AT STAPLE COMMON**  
From 11am, call Mike Ridge on 01278 450793 for more information.

◆ **SATURDAY 19 JUNE: GOREN FARM BUMBLE BEE DAY**  
From 10am, for more information.

◆ **SATURDAY 26 JUNE: MEMBURY WALK**  
From 10am, call Tim Pitcher on 01404 881512 for more information.

◆ **SATURDAY 26 JUNE: FAMILY BUSHCRAFT DAY**  
From 10am – 4pm, call the Neroche Scheme office on 01823 680846 for more information.

Details of these events and our full programme can be found on our website at [www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk](http://www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk)

**NEW EVENT!**

# Blackdowns Woodland Fair

**Saturday 3rd July 2010 10am – 5pm**  
Park Farm, Wellington, Somerset TA21 8NP £5 per car on the gate

**Join us for the Blackdown Hills' very first Woodland Fair!**

Come and enjoy the world of wood, in a beautiful setting close to the Wellington Monument. This family-friendly event will bring together some of the best wood-related activities from Somerset, Devon and Dorset.

- Displays and have-a-go at green-woodworking, bushcraft and other rural skills
- Wildlife walks, archery and activities for children
- Demonstrations of aerial tree work and a steam-driven saw bench
- Stalls selling crafts, tools and equipment
- Locally-sourced refreshments all day

# Summertime in the forest

THE bluebells are at their best at the moment, but will be over before we know it.

So on a sunny afternoon or evening, take a stroll in the forest to see the waves of blue lapping through the woods.

Several stretches of the

Staple Fitzpaine Herepath are great for bluebells.

Starting from Staple Hill car park, walk east across Mount Fancy, Britty fields and Staple Common, towards Castle Neroche.

Alternatively take a walk through Bickenhall

Wood and across to Thurlbear Wood to see the bluebells set against

the new green of the oaks, hazels and ash trees.

## Neroche host a fun family Bushcraft Day

THERE are still places left on our ever-popular Bushcraft day, on Saturday 26th June.

This event provides a wonderful introduction to bushcraft for a family audience.

Learn to create fire without matches, make shelters in the woods, look for tracks and signs of wildlife, and use hand tools safely to make spoons and other craft items from wood.

The event suits all ages, from five-year-olds upwards, and is run by an experienced team of bushcraft practitioners.

The venue will be deep in the Neroche Forest near Staple Fitzpaine, and places cost £6 per person.

For more details and bookings call the Neroche office on 01823 680846

## Neroche Conservation volunteers butterfly and wildflower picnic

FOR those who have been part of the Neroche Conservation volunteer days, or anyone else interested in getting involved, this event on Wednesday 9th June, offers a chance to see the effect of practical conservation work in the forest, and the wildlife habitats volunteers have helped to shape.

Butterfly expert John Davis will be on hand to describe what is on the wing at Buckland Wood and Quants butterfly glade, near Angersleigh.

Bring a picnic!  
For more details and bookings call the Neroche office on 01823 680846.

**The Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership** is funded by Natural England, Devon County Council, Somerset County Council, East Devon District Council, Mid Devon District Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council and South Somerset District Council.

**The Neroche Scheme** is led by the Forestry Commission. It is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, supported by the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership, Natural England, Devon County Council, Somerset County Council, East Devon District Council, Mid Devon District Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council and South Somerset District Council, The National Trust, Somerset Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation and Somerset Art Works





# Working our Woodlands

with John Greenshields

**A**N exciting and new event in the Blackdown Hills will be held on the July 3rd called the Blackdown's Woodland Fair.

This is a woodland event aimed at all the family and will encompass all woodland and rural skills.

There will be lots to do and learn and there will be plenty of opportunity to get involved.

The event will be hosted and organised by the Woodland Association and the Working our Woodlands project and is

supported by the Neroche Scheme and the East Devon and Blackdown Hills AONBs.

Held just under the Wellington Monument it is hoped it will become an annual event.

Some of the woodland trees are a bit behind last year I have noticed, and the colder weather we had in May did not help.

When doing any work on trees or in the woodland just keep an eye out for nesting birds, and if possible hold off any work until July. This time we do our maintenance and checks on equipment ready for the Autumn, and it is always well worth checking safety equipment.

If you buy in wood for logs, now is the time to order them. Not only are they usually cheaper now, but it will ensure you don't run out.

If you have woodland now is the time to check those boundary fences and repair as necessary before the cattle are let out on the grass.

Look out for Deer damage on young trees roughly a metre and a bit



off the ground as far as the deer can reach.

You can reach John at parkfarm@tinyonline or (01823) 660764.

## Forestry apprentices get to work

**VALUABLE** qualifications and hands on work experience has been offered to five East Devon young people with the launch of a pilot apprentice scheme.

Funding for the £2.4 million pilot has been made available from "Making it Local", a five year locally managed grants scheme for young people in Forestry and Arboriculture. The scheme is managed in the Blackdown Hills and East Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, along with the Forestry Commission.

This is only the second scheme of its type in England and over 150 applications were received for the five places.

Apprentice Stuart Taylor said: "I

was so pleased to be offered the apprenticeship. It is giving me a chance to not only achieve qualifications and certificates, but also to gain valuable, practical experience that I hope will help me be successful in securing a full time position in forestry in two years time."

Two of the five apprentices are working with the Forestry Commission within the public forest estate in Neroche and East Devon.

Bicton College is managing the academic qualifications and assessing the apprentices who, on completion of the apprenticeship, will have an achieved NVQ Level Two in forestry along with a host of professional competency certificates.

Councillor Paul Diviani, Chair-

man of the Making it Local action group said they were very pleased to be funding the innovative pilot project, particularly because it linked with local forestry businesses and Bicton College to provide jobs and training for young people in their area.

"There are real opportunities for growth in the forestry sector locally, which should hopefully lead to long-term jobs for these young people," he said.

The Forestry Commission is running the two-year scheme along with Silvanus Trust, Bicton College and three private employers-Clinton Devon Estates, Forest Fuels and Kleen Kutt.

## WI donation to Blackdown practice



◆ **DUNKESWELL** Wipresident Marguerite Wall presenting the cheque to Karen Button, Practice Manager of the Blackdown Surgeries

AS part of their 60th anniversary celebration, members of Dunkeswell WI gathered at the Throgmorton Community Hall for a coffee morning and group photographs.

The four longest serving members, Dora Toon, Beryl Berry, Anne Stevens and Kath Bandyszewski took pride of place in one of the pictures.

The WI also recently presented a cheque for £60 to the Blackdown Practice.

Practice Manager Karen Button attended the May meeting to receive the donation and informed mem-

bers that it will be put towards buying equipment for their new programme, which aims to give health checks to those in our community who act as carers.

The group photographs were also show during the meeting and a large copy will be printed and framed for display in the village hall.

The next meeting of Dunkeswell WI will be on Thursday, June 10th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Marian Scott will tell members of her experiences of being a British housewife in Sierra Leone.

Visitors are always welcome.



## Blackdown Hills Business Association

### ■ **LAST CALL: Blackdown Hills Marquee at the Honiton Show on Thursday, 5 August**

We are calling on all businesses to contact us if they would like to take a pitch in our marquee at the Honiton Show. This local show offers fantastic opportunities to help you to show case your products and services. Attendance last year was over 18,000 so this show offers a superb window to your business.

If you are not a member of the BHBA you can join at the same time as you book! Membership of the BHBA is £35 per year. Pitches in our award winning marquee start at £90 for 2 metres. Please contact Val Baker at the BHBA if you would like a pitch.

### ■ **Workshops**

For details of local training events & workshops, please visit the BHBA website or contact Val Baker at the BHBA - see details below.

### ■ **BHBA Lunch Club (apprenticeships): At Culm Valley Inn, Culmstock - Tuesday, June 8th**

You are invited to the lunch club on Tuesday 8 June 12 noon to 2pm. We are delighted that the Culm Valley Inn is hosting this lunch club.

Richard at the Culm Valley Inn has come up with a lovely menu, please choose from the menu below. You can pay via our secure online payments service with PayPal, most businesses prefer this method of payment. Alternatively you can pay via BACS. (Please note that Cheques and cash carry a £10 admin fee per booking.)

### *MENU*

Chicken Kepama  
Free-range Greek-style Chicken Breast (in a wine, brandy and honey sauce). The chicken has been sourced locally from Cottage Garden.

### OR

Freshly Caught Prime Fish of the Day (caught off the south coast) served with an appropriate sauce. This

could be Brill or Lemon Sole, it could be Pollock or Cod it depends on the catch!

All served with new potatoes and seasonal vegetables (sourced locally where possible)

Choice of puddings from the board eg chocolate brownies, pavlova, crème brûlée and many more.

Followed by Coffee or Tea

The cost is £19.50 per for BHBA members or £24.50 (for non-members)

This month we are delighted to welcome an organisation that provides information and advice to businesses on apprenticeships.

Jill Weeks from Careers South West will be running a short presentation from 12.15pm on how to recruit apprentices.

Jill will provide advice on what is involved. I know that a number of you have been looking to take on young people on apprenticeship schemes, so I am sure that this will be of interest to many of you. If you are not looking to take on an apprentice at the moment, this event will also offer you excellent networking opportunities and I look forward to receiving your booking.

### ■ **Blackdown Hills Market in Taunton (beside the Market House in the town centre) on Saturday, June 26th**

### ■ **Join us**

If you would like to join the BHBA, membership is £35 per year.

Membership offers you two online listings for your business website at [www.bhba.org.uk](http://www.bhba.org.uk) and [www.blackdown-hills.co.uk](http://www.blackdown-hills.co.uk).

As a member you will receive monthly e-newsletters packed with opportunities, news and training events. For more information, please contact Val Baker for more details on any of the above events on 01823 681484

**To source local products and services visit [www.blackdown-hills.co.uk](http://www.blackdown-hills.co.uk).**

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Prima Moda Brides is building on its reputation as the bridal shop in Somerset and they are naturally very excited to be able to add Sarah Jackson's name to their range.

The Sarah Jackson Collection is an exclusive couture service for bride and bridesmaids and Memento Tiaras by Irene Morris with exquisite headdresses which can be designed to complement your gown.

Suited Men's Wear Hire with Les and Laura now available.

Jean and Irene welcome you to Prima Moda Brides to experience a truly personal and unique service.



### Sweetland Country Fayre

**S**WEETLANDS Country Fayre can help you through the whole wedding reception process, including, finding your perfect venue, planning the reception, crockery and glass hire and catering.

The family business prides itself on the speciality catering they provide for weddings and many other special events. The menus available are tailored to your needs whether it is a formal meal you would like, or a more relaxed buffet.

Pamela Sweetland who has a wealth of experience creates all of the recipes. Her speciality is home cooked food with flair and every new event is approved with a fresh eye.

You can be certain that your menu will be unique and special, using natural farm produce sourced within Devon.

Popular Hog and Lamb spit roasts are also available. Special dietary requirements are also catered for, please call 01404 871436 for further details. Pamela is more than happy to discuss your needs and exceed your expectations.

### JOLLY JAUNTS TAXIS

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## Sweetlands Country Fayre

*Bespoke Catering for Weddings, Dinner Parties and Events*  
*We have many venues available or choose your own*

All our catering uses fresh, locally sourced meat and high quality organic fruit and vegetables. We aim for all our food to be organic, natural, and non - GM

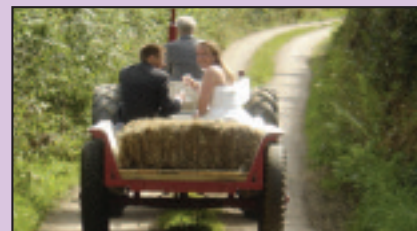
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East Devon 01404 871436 / 07950 006612



# Your Wedding Day *in the Blackdown Hills*



## Lakeview Manor

LAKEVIEW Manor is the perfect venue for your special day, set in 45 acres of parkland, with the stunning lakes and pristine gardens providing a breathtaking backdrop for photographs. Lakeview believes that the happiest day of your life deserves to be celebrated in beautiful surroundings and with meticulous attention to detail.

Lakeview Manor is licensed for civil ceremonies and partnerships, and can help and advise on many different formats for weddings and entertainment. The permanent marquee, overlooking the lake, can seat up to 150 guests. There are also a number of smaller functions rooms in the main hotel. With 17 en-suite bedrooms for your guests this is the perfect choice of venue.

Lakeview Manor has their own dedicated wedding planner, Julie Whitfield, who oversees every aspect of your day, working alongside the catering team who are able to supply you with a fantastic choice of menus.

From an intimate wedding to a larger wedding, first class food and service combined with a stunning location lends itself favourably to any event.

For more information or to arrange a visit please contact Lakeview Manor on 01404 891287 / 891358 or email us at [yourwedding@lakeviewmanor.co.uk](mailto:yourwedding@lakeviewmanor.co.uk).

## Angelfire Pyrotechnics



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Angelfire is a premier UK supplier of firework and firework displays throughout the United Kingdom. We are highly experienced and skilled in all aspects of pyrotechnic wizardry. We pride ourselves on our professional approach paying particular attention to individual client requirements.

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To advertise in next months feature please call Louise on 01297 32601

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With a permanent marquee available to seat up to 150 people, we are perfectly set up for a wide range of private and corporate events.

Lakeview Manor will work closely with you to ensure your event runs smoothly and everyone enjoys themselves. Let us help you with the selection of menus and decorations.

Rest assured the service will be of the highest standard

**L**akeview Manor is renowned for weddings, receptions and other celebrations.



Lakeview Manor, Dunkeswell, Honiton EX14 4SH  
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[www.lakeviewmanor.co.uk](http://www.lakeviewmanor.co.uk)



Email [mail@angelfire-pyrotechnics.co.uk](mailto:mail@angelfire-pyrotechnics.co.uk)  
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# What's on *in the Blackdown Hills*

## Honiton Agricultural Show 2010

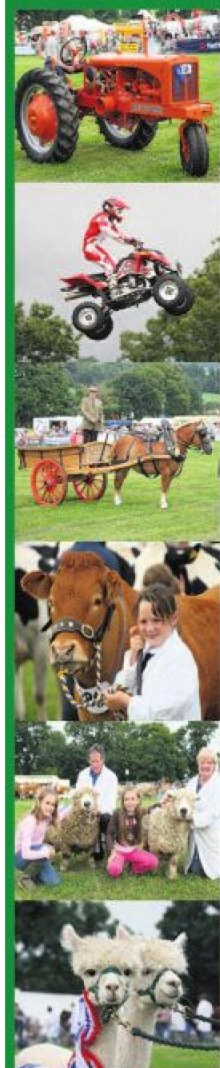


THE 120th Honiton Agricultural Show takes place on Thursday 5th August 2010. The show received record livestock entries in 2009 and the visitors packed the cattle and sheep lines trying to get a glimpse of the magnificent animals being shown. Following the introduction of Alpacas last year the organisers reported a fantastic ninety four exhibits. The Grand Parade will take centre stage amongst the main

ring activities where the day's prize winners will proudly parade giving the viewing public a wonderful opportunity to see the beautifully turned out exhibits. The Main Ring is delighted to host for the first time the Bolddog "Lings" Freestyle Team, Honda's official and the UK's number 1 motorcycle display team! Again Honiton will play host the West of England Hound Show a show within a show which forms a major part of

the lower field's countryside activities. The vintage tractors can also be found in this area where over 90 vehicles are on display. There is a wonderful poultry and dog show, with classes for the family pet. With over 400 trade stands, including a Craft marquee and a Food Hall bursting with over forty exhibitors and locally sourced public caterers there really is something for everyone. Honiton has a unique atmos-

phere it brings new and traditional agriculture together so make a note in your diary as the organisers look forward to welcoming you. Don't forget accompanied under 16's go free. Livestock and horse entries close on the 18th June and for further details on the show contact the secretary on 01404 41794 or visit the website [www.honitonshow.co.uk](http://www.honitonshow.co.uk).



# Honiton Agricultural Show



(Hosts to The West of England Hound Show)

## Thursday 5th August 2010

### MAIN RING ATTRACTIONS

**The UK's Number 1 motorcycle display team 'Bolddog "Lings" Freestyle Team'**  
**Grand Parade of Livestock**  
**Heavy Horses**

**DONKEY RIDES • VINTAGE TRACTORS • DOG AND POULTRY SHOW**

*Children (Under 16) FREE ENTRY when accompanied by an adult*

Entries close 18th June 2010, please apply for schedule to:

Secretary: Marcelle Connor, Bank House, 66a High Street, Honiton, Devon EX14 1PS

**[www.honitonshow.co.uk](http://www.honitonshow.co.uk)**



# What's on in the Blackdown Hills

## NEW EVENT!

## Blackdowns Woodland Fair

Come and enjoy the world of wood, in a beautiful setting close to the Wellington Monument. This family-friendly event will bring together some of the best wood-related activities from Somerset, Devon and Dorset.

- Displays and have-a-go at green-woodworking, bushcraft and other rural skills
- Wildlife walks, archery and activities for children
- Demonstrations of aerial tree work and a steam-driven saw bench
- Stalls selling crafts, tools and equipment
- Locally-sourced refreshments all day

Join us for the Blackdown Hills' very first Woodland Fair!

Interested in exhibiting? Please contact:  
John Greenhalghs on 01823 666784  
More details visit: [www.woodbiz.co.uk](http://www.woodbiz.co.uk)



Organised by the Blackdowns and East Devon Woodland Association, supported by the Nene Scheme, the Blackdown Hills AONB, East Devon AONB and the Silverus Trust.



Saturday 3rd July 2010  
10am - 5pm

Park Farm, Wellington,  
Somerset TA21 9NP  
£5 per car on the gate



## FLAMING JUNE AT ESCOT

SUMMER is almost here! June is often the best of months, with the longest days but none of the frenetic activity of the main summer holidays. At Escot we've a great selection of activities and events to make the most of this balmy time as Spring slips into Summer. Here are some examples:

- Art. Continuing exhibitions by Tamsin Green and Mike Hughes, plus two willow sculpture weekend courses (12th and 13th June and again on 26th and 27th June) by Alicia Castrillo
- Country Sports. 20th June - An introduction day

when 200 children learn about the gamekeeper's role and country crafts

- Barn Dance. 19th June - The Tale Valley Trust holds its annual Barn Dance at Yellingham Farm
- Retail. 26th and 27th June - A Mad Hatter Shoppers Weekend for gifts and aquatic specialities
- Theatre. 27th June - Alice Through the Looking Glass. The first of our fabulous events programme of summer music and drama in the park.

For full details see [www.escot-devon.co.uk](http://www.escot-devon.co.uk) or call 01404 822 188.

## WHAT'S ON LISTINGS

Friday, May 30th  
SAMPFORD  
PEVERELL

Whist Drive at the Village Hall from 7.30pm. Telephone 01884 821309 for more details.

Sunday, May 30th  
CHARD

Concert: The Lord's Song in a Strange Land, at St Mary's Church from 6.30pm. Telephone 01884 849172 for more details.

Monday, May 31st  
WELLINGTON

Concert: Cross Sword & Fire at St John the Baptist Church from 6pm. Telephone 01884 849172 for more details.

Saturday, June 12th  
LUPPITT

It's A Knockout at Luppitt Village Hall from 6pm. Teams for adults and children. Bar and pork roast. Telephone 01404 44819

Sunday, June 13th  
YARCOMBE

Family Teddy Bears Picnic. Cow pat competition, bring your own picnic, bouncy castle, everybody welcome. At the field opposite Hilltop Service on A30 (EX14 9EB). All donations towards RD & E Noenatal unit. Telephone 07967 965208

Saturday, June 19th  
COTHAY MANOR

NR. WELLINGTON  
Gardens, plants and food fair. 11am - 4.30pm. Postcode TA21 0JR. Telephone 01984 667209 for more details.

Friday, June 25th  
SAMPFORD  
PEVERELL  
Whist Drive at the Village Hall from 7.30pm. Telephone 01884 821309 for more details

Saturday, June 26th  
UPOTTERY  
Auction of Promises at the Manor Rooms from 7pm. Telephone 01404 892 836 for more details.

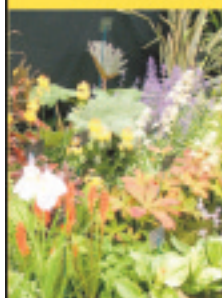
Sunday, July 4th  
CULMSTOCK  
Car Show, Car Boot, Trade Stalls, Beer Tent, Hot food at Highfields from 10.30am - 4.00pm. For more details call 01823 674495 or 01823 661701.

Friday, July 9th  
UFFCULME  
Summer Quiz at Magelake Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm - prompt start. Please book your team by no later than June 28th. Telephone 01884 840 359 for more details.

Saturday, July 31st  
ANGERSLEIGH  
St Michael & All Angels Angersleigh Church Fair from 2.30pm. Telephone 01823 421610 for more details.

## AXE VALE FESTIVAL

AXMINSTER SHOWGROUND  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2010



from 10 am  
FLORAL MARQUEE  
FOOD HALL - CRAFTS  
HORTICULTURAL SHOW  
TRADE STANDS - TOYS & HOBBIES  
ART - ANTIQUES - LIVE BANDS  
CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT  
DEMONSTRATIONS  
ARENA EVENTS  
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forest drop slide  
Escot safari  
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campfires  
rockpooling  
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### Camp Wild is Escot's Summer Camp

There are residential packages in our new Yurt Village for 8 to 12 year olds and day programmes for those aged 6 and 7. From Jurassic Coast fossil hunts to otter feeding, summer was never this much fun!

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booth games  
woodland wonders  
boat trip

## Blackdown Hills What's On Listings form

Event:.....

Date:.....

Time:.....

Venue:.....

Town/Village:.....

Organised by:..... Tel no:.....

Send your Diary Dates listings to: Pulman's View from, Tindle House, South Street, Axminster, EX13 5AD

PLEASE NOTE: This is a free service and whilst we endeavour to include all entries, we cannot guarantee all listings submitted will be published. Please use one form per event you wish to submit. Photocopies are unacceptable.



# THE KINGS ARMS INN

STOCKLAND, NR. HONITON, DEVON, EX14 9BS

Tel: 01404 881361      [www.thekingsarms.org.uk](http://www.thekingsarms.org.uk)



## POOL TOURNAMENT EVERY THURSDAY



## QUIZ FIRST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH

## MONTHLY LIVE MUSIC

Debbie and Phil Rees have been new owners of The Kings Arms in Stockland since the 1st March and along with Debbie's son Oli, who is the chef, makes the Kings Arms a real family concern. Living locally, Debbie has previous experience in the pub trade and Oli is a fully trained, enthusiastic chef. The Kings Arms dates from the 16th century and is set in the delightful village of Stockland which has stunning view across the Blackdown Hills. The Kings Arms with its thatched roof, exposed walls, log fires and beams offers a truly traditional pub experience.

The Inn offers two dining areas, serving home cooked food using local ingredients and high quality fresh meat, fish and vegetables. The Coachman's Restaurant is believed to be haunted and the Cotley bar offers a less formal dining experience. There is a huge choice of delicious meals on the menu including a specials board which changes regularly, for those who love seafood, choose the scallops and tiger prawns, if you're looking for hearty fayre choose the faggots braised in ale and for the vegetarian, sample the wensleydale cheese patties or the chef's special pea and mint risotto. Traditional Sunday roast is also served using top quality sirloin beef and roast loin of pork. Food is served 7 days a week from 12 noon till 2pm and 6.30pm to 9.30pm, bookings are recommended. There is a comprehensive stock of wines on offer and local real ales, Otter, Amber and Exmoor along with guest ales are available on tap.

There is a dart board and new pool table, Debbie and Phil are introducing a pool tournament every Thursday, there is also a skittle alley and new teams are welcome. There is regular live music and a quiz the first Tuesday of every month at 8pm with proceeds going to charity.

Our large skittle alley can be transformed for functions for up to 50 people, from wedding receptions to birthdays and anniversaries we can cater for any occasion. We have three comfortable letting rooms which are ideal for those who want to stay and guests can take advantage of the traditional English breakfast served in the morning.

## NEW SKITTLE TEAMS WELCOME



## LOCAL REAL ALES

### THE KINGS ARMS INN

#### Starters

<b>Soup of the Day (v)</b> <i>Served with crusty bread</i>	£4.50
<b>Garlic Mushrooms (v)</b> <i>Served with a crusty roll</i>	£4.95
<b>Wensleydale Cheese Patties (v)</b> <i>With an apricot and thyme marmalade</i>	£4.95
<b>Chicken Liver Pate</b> <i>With a fruity chutney and toast</i>	£5.25
<b>Brie and Red Onion Marmalade Tart (v)</b> <i>Served Cherry Tomato, Chilli and Lime Chutney</i>	£4.95
<b>Main Course</b>	
<b>Steak, Mushroom and Guinness Pie</b> <i>Served with mashed potato or chips and a rich onion gravy</i>	£10.95
<b>8oz Rib Eye Steak</b> <i>With Chunky Chips, Field Mushroom and Peppercorn Sauce</i>	£16.95
<b>Roast Rump of Lamb</b> <i>With Moroccan Bean and Pepper Stew</i>	£14.95
<b>Slow Roasted Belly Pork</b> <i>Served on Champ with an Apple and Cider Sauce</i>	£11.95
<b>Lambs Liver and Crispy Bacon</b> <i>Pan Fried and Served with Mashed Potato and Onion Gravy</i>	£8.95
<i>All the above served with Seasonal Vegetables</i>	
<b>The King 8oz Burger and Chips</b> <i>(Toppings 70p extra Blue Cheese, Bacon or Cheddar and Red Onion Marmalade)</i>	£8.50
<b>Pea and Mint Risotto Topped with Parmesan Shavings (v)</b> <i>Served with Garlic Bread</i>	£9.95

### Specials Board

<b>Potato, Carrot, Spring Onion and Fetta Rosti (v)</b> <i>Topped with a Poached Egg</i>	Starter	£5.75
<b>Smoked Duck Breast Salad</b> <i>With Fresh Figs</i>	Starter	£6.50
<b>Chicory, Devon Blue Cheese and Walnut Salad (v)</b> <i>With a Honey Dressing</i>	Starter	£5.95
<b>Faggots Braised in Ale</b> <i>With a Grain Mustard Mash</i>	Main	£8.95
<b>Home Cured Gravolax</b> <i>With a Dill and Mustard Dressing</i>	Starter	£6.50
<b>Scallops and Tiger Prawns</b> <i>With a Thai Butternut Squash Puree and Salad</i>	Starter Main	£7.95 £16.50
<b>Sea Bass Fillets</b> <i>Served with Confit Garlic Mashed Potato and Lemon and Thyme Sauce</i>	Main	£15.95
<b>Corn Fed Chicken Breast</b> <i>Served with Fresh Pea, Mint, Chorizo Risotto</i> <i>Topped with Parmesan Shavings</i>	Main	£14.50

### THE KINGS ARMS INN Lunch Menu

<b>Soup of the Day</b>	£4.50
<i>Served with crusty bread</i>	
<b>Whitebait with Tartare Sauce</b>	£5.50
<b>Garlic Mushrooms with Crusty Bread</b>	£4.95
<b>Wensleydale Cheese Patties</b>	
<i>Served with Apricot and Thyme Marmalade</i>	
*****	
<b>Roast Sirloin of Beef</b>	£11.95
<b>Roast Pork Loin</b>	£9.95
<b>Pan Fried Sea Bass with Salad</b>	£11.95
<b>Vegetarian Option</b>	£9.95
*****	
<b>White Profiterole Picasso</b>	
<i>A Biscuit Base White Chocolate Mousse with Profiteroles inside</i>	
<i>Croissant and Whisky Bread and Butter Pudding</i>	
<i>Mango Sorbet with a Fruit Compote</i>	
<i>Vanilla Panna Cotta with a Blackberry Compote</i>	
All puddings £5.50	



# Eating out *in the Blackdown Hills*

## HALF MOON INN CLAYHIDON

AS summer fast approaches, staff at the Half Moon Inn, Clayhidon, are preparing for the busy months ahead. Proprietors Lynda and Dorian Higgins are celebrating their fourth year at the Half Moon. Lynda said: "It has taken a while, but the results of our hard work are finally starting to show."

Situated in the picturesque village of Clayhidon, just a short drive from Wellington, The Half Moon Inn is right at the heart of the community, offering much more than fantastic food and a homely country pub atmosphere. Lynda and Dorian have worked hard to create, not only a warm and welcoming inn for villagers and visitors alike, but also a venue offering a myriad of different events throughout the year.

With a menu that offers the best in award winning, local, seasonal produce, The Half Moon is renowned for its traditional, hearty food. All is expertly prepared in house using only the best locally

sourced ingredients. As well as a regularly changing menu, there are daily specials boards with fresh fish including Lyme Bay scallops with chorizo mash and truffle oil and Exmouth mussels. New additions include Proper Potted Shrimps, Tea-smoked Duck with an orange & thyme dressing and Calves liver in a sage and red wine reduction. Mediterranean style sharing boards are also proving to be a great hit for the garden.

Last year The Half Moon was honoured with the Taste of the West Bronze award, and the pub features in CAMRA's 2010 Good Beer Guide. This is a testament to Dorian's hard work, in the cellar, keeping good ale featuring many varied cask ales from all over the South West. Lynda and Dorian work hard to organise fun filled family events throughout the year, often raising money for local charities. This year they were able to donate £472 to St Margaret's Hospice from proceeds raised from their annual Live Ferret Racing night.

Over the Spring Bank Holiday, the Half Moon held the third annual "Moonstock" Beer Festival. Now a tradition at the pub, the event saw a huge variety of cask ales available to sample, some of which will become a permanent feature on the bar. Look out for the more unusual real ales from Quercus from Kingsbridge, North Curry, and Wooden Hand in Truro, joining local favourites from O'Hanlons, Branscombe, and Otter Brewery.

Every Wednesday night, is open mic night at the Half Moon with live music from local musicians including Ashill's latest young star Alex Hart and local blues singer/guitarist Tim Royce. Open mic nights take place from 8.30pm – turn up and join in or simply just listen.

2010 has seen the introduction of a new barbecue area, which Lynda and Dorian are hoping to get full use of, throughout the long awaited sizzling summer, with plenty of outdoor events in the pipeline.

To celebrate their fourth year at the Half Moon, Lynda and Dorian will be hosting a Midsummer Garden Party, with a BBQ and live music on Saturday, July 19th. Following an afternoon of fantastic food, great entertainment and a sprinkling of summer sunshine (hopefully!), the evening will see the Half Moon transported back in time with band 'Spaced Invaders', bringing the 1980s to life. Don't forget your legwarmers and big hair!

Taunton Deane Morris men will also make an appearance on Tuesday, July 27th at 9:00.

Families with children are always made welcome at the Half Moon, and there is ample off-road parking.

If you would like to know more about the Half Moon Inn or if you would like to make a booking, phone Lynda or Dorian on 01823 680291 or visit the website: [www.halfmoondevon.co.uk](http://www.halfmoondevon.co.uk).



▼ LYNDIA and Dorian with new addition to the team, Kate Heslop



**HALF MOON INN**  
**REAL ALES & REAL FOOD**  
**Midsummer Garden Party**  
 Saturday 19th June  
**OPEN ALL DAY**  
 12noon until midnight  
 Full Menu Lunchtime & Evening  
 plus  
**BBQ**  
 An afternoon of  
**LIVE MUSIC IN THE GARDEN**  
 From 9pm  
**SPACED INVADERS**  
 80s cover band  
 Bring your big hair and leg warmers!  
 Half Moon Inn, Clayhidon, Devon  
 Tel: 01823 680291  
[www.halfmoondevon.co.uk](http://www.halfmoondevon.co.uk)



Discover the  
**ASHILL INN**  
 A Hidden Gem

A Genuine Village Freehouse.  
 Nestling in the charming village of Ashill.  
 Just ten mins east of Junction 27  
**REAL ALES • GREAT FOOD**  
 INCLUDING TRADITIONAL SUNDAY LUNCHES  
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**ALL ENQUIRIES 01884 840506**  
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 No Cards

To advertise on the  
 Eating Out page of the  
 View from the Blackdown  
 Hills call Louise on  
 01297 32601



### WHAT'S ON AT THE EAGLE TAVERN

**ULTIMATE STEAK NIGHT**  
 Third Tuesday of the month  
**QUIZ AND CURRY NIGHT**  
 First Thursday of every month  
**SUNDAY LUNCHTIME CATERING**  
**WEDNESDAY CARVERY**  
 12-2.30pm only £8.50  
 including FREE starter or dessert  
 Beer Garden  
 Watch World Cup football here  
 Large children's play area  
 Function room

**TELEPHONE 01460 234292**  
 Main Road A303, Buckland St Mary, Chard,  
 Somerset TA21 0NG



### The Blackbird Inn

**A38 Wellington -Taunton Road**

**Tel: 01823 461273**

[www.blackbirdinnsomerset.com](http://www.blackbirdinnsomerset.com)

**Open lunchtime and evenings every day**

Lovely log fires / Home cooked food / Daily Specials

Restaurant / New Improved Beer Garden / Real Ale

Accommodation (6 En-suite Bedrooms)



*A Great Day Out for all the Family*



# Sausage Hurling Championships & Family Fun Day at Wallace's

Visitors to the farm will have a chance to see the Highlanders, the Deer and the Bison close up as they graze or roam across the fields.

## The Shop:

As well as the unique range of meats, our farm shop sells fresh local produce including fresh local fish, vegetables, eggs, chutneys, jams and freshly baked bread. The delicatessen displays a huge range of cheeses, olives, homemade pies, quiches and salads and our Gold Medal Award winning dry cured ham!



## The Meeting Room:

Available for day, half day or evening hire. Catering packages to suit, either light refreshments, buffet lunches or meals in our own restaurant. We have a capacity for up to 20 people with ample free parking and WiFi.



**Saturday June 12th 2010**  
**10 - 5pm**

In aid of the New Healthy Living Centre, Hemyock and the Beacon Centre, Musgrove Park Hospital.

## FREE ENTRY

All day BBQ  
& Bar,  
Craft Fayre,  
Falconry,  
Archery &  
Sword fighting



Bouncy castle  
silly games,  
Family  
Dog Show,  
& much  
much  
more...

follow "the bison man" on twitter @wallacesfarm



Wallace's, Hill Farm, Hemyock,  
EX15 3UZ Tel. 01823 680307  
[www.welcometowallaces.co.uk](http://www.welcometowallaces.co.uk)

We've been farming on the Blackdown Hills in Devon for nearly 25 years, rearing herds of Highland Cattle, Red Deer and North American Bison, as well as our old friends the sheep, pigs, ducks, chickens and our latest arrivals, the Wild Boar.

## Mrs Wallace's Country Kitchen:



Our restaurant offers a wonderful selection of light lunches and cream teas, using the quality produce that can be found in our shop. Our traditional Sunday lunch is incredibly popular and our chef is constantly developing fantastic new ideas that we sell in both the restaurant and the shop.

## New to Wallace's:

Speciality "Fish Evenings" on the last Friday of every month. 7-9pm. Bookings Only. Fresh locally caught Fish sold at weekends





# Local Services

## in the Blackdown Hills

### countryside management

#### Land management for non-farmers

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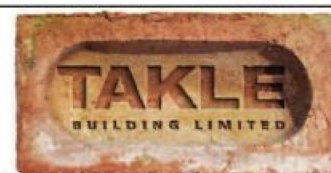
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# Driving through *the Blackdown Hills*

## Mercedes-Benz S-class and Sprinter retain their fleet world honours

THE Mercedes-Benz S-Class has been crowned Best Luxury Car at the 2010 Fleet World Honours and the Mercedes-Benz Sprinter scooped Best Large Van. Both vehicles retained their awards from 2009, whilst Sprinter now enjoys a three-year reign.

The Best Luxury Car award for the S-Class was presented to Adrian Freeman, Regional Corporate Sales Manager for Mercedes-Benz UK at a special ceremony at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall on Tuesday 18 May.

Steve Moody, Editor of Fleet World commented: "The luxury sector is about to become even more competitive, but all new entrants have one model to beat, a model that continues to define the very best in corporate motoring and luxury: the Mercedes-Benz S-Class. New more efficient engines have made the line-up even more formidable than ever before."

The Mercedes-Benz S 350 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY, which accounts for 92 per cent of fleet sales, returns an impressive 37.2 mpg on the combined cycle whilst emitting just 199 g/km of CO<sub>2</sub> and later in 2010 will become even cleaner and more efficient. With the introduction of the S 350 BlueTEC, Mercedes-Benz will be the first manufacturer to offer a vehicle that already meets EU 6 standards that don't come into effect in the UK until 2014.

The unique BlueTEC technology significantly reduces the only gas constituents that are higher in diesel engines than in petrol engines, therefore reducing emissions and improving efficiency.

Colin Niklas, National Corporate Sales Manager for Mercedes-Benz UK said: "We are delighted that the 2010 Fleet World Honours judging panel has once again awarded the S-Class with the accolade of Best Luxury Car. The S-Class is well recognised as being at the fore front of new technology as well as offering the ultimate in luxurious surroundings, extreme comfort and of course great efficiency."

Many features of the S-Class are unique and remain unrivalled by competitors. New safety features making the S-Class one of the safest cars on the road.

Adaptive Highbeam is now standard on the S-Class and uses eight stages of graduation from dipped to main beam to ensure that maximum visible range from the headlights is available at all time, without dazzling other road users. Another unique standard feature of the S-Class is Attention Assist which monitors over 70 parameters to detect the onset of drowsiness so it can alert the driver to take a break, crucially, before they fall asleep.

Torque vectoring brakes ensure precise cornering without compromising driving dynamics, while Distronic Plus significantly reduces driver strain in start stop traffic through the use of long and medium range radars by keeping the car a set distance from the vehicle in front.

The Mercedes-Benz S-Class continues to impress and be the envy of the boardroom as the halo company car for others to aspire to.

The Mercedes-Benz Sprinter also delighted the judges, winning the Best Large Van award.

Van Fleet World Editor, John Kendall, said: "The Sprinter has taken this award for the past few years and now with Euro-5 engines out in the past year, it does much to consolidate the van's position. The models have much to offer on all counts. The latest Sprinter has a new 2.2-litre common rail diesel with lower emissions and better fuel consumption, while car-like driving characteristics belie the size of the larger models. Not surprisingly, they have become firm fleet favourites."

Steve Bridge, Mercedes-Benz Vans Sales and Marketing Director said: "The Mercedes-Benz Sprinter has held the accolade of Best Large Van since 2008, and we're thrilled it has retained its title again in 2010. The vehicle has repeatedly set standards by offering the van fleet market low whole life costs, excellent fuel economy and a firm commitment to safety."

Mercedes-Benz was the first manufacturer to achieve Euro 5 – as well as being cleaner, the new Sprinters are

smoother, quieter and more powerful, along with being significantly cheaper to run. And, with low fuel consumption and low emissions becoming increasingly important considerations for the van fleet buyer, the Sprinter can also be fitted with the ECO-Start system. This innovative system saves fuel and reduces emissions by automatically cutting the engine whenever the vehicle is stationary for more than three seconds and then re-starts it as soon as the clutch pedal is depressed.

All Sprinters come equipped with class and industry leading levels of passive and active safety. The Adaptive ESP (Electronic Stability Program) anti-skid system constantly monitors the vehicles adjusting load, centre of gravity and yaw angles and dynamically adjusts the brakes, supplying maximum effect, while the vehicle is on the move.



▲ The Mercedes-Benz Sprinter  
▼ The Mercedes-Benz S-Class



## Check a bargain before you buy

AS THE AVCIS Car Crime Awareness Week (17th – 23rd May) draws to a close, HPI is urging car buyers to remain vigilant at all times and highlights the potential dangers of buying a used vehicle. Car Crime Awareness week has served as an annual reminder for motorists to protect themselves from becoming a victim of car crime. However, HPI warns used car buyers that they shouldn't just be wary of problems as a car owner, such as of theft of their vehicle, but also need to consider the risks as a car buyer - of buying a car that has been stolen, has outstanding finance against it, or has been clocked or cloned.

To mark the end of the 2010 National Car Crime Awareness Week, HPI is also offering a 25% discount on all used vehicle checks carried out 21st – 31st May inclusive\*.

"Our figures show that 1 in 3 cars checked with HPI still has something to hide, putting buyers at risk of purchasing a car with a suspect history," says Nicola Johnson, Consumer Services Manager for HPI. "Used car fraudsters use a range of tricks to con unsuspecting buyers, like making them pay over the odds for a vehicle that should be returned to its rightful owner, leaving the buyer severely out of pocket. Car Crime Awareness Week serves as a great reminder of the risks used car buyers face and the need to protect themselves from unscrupulous sellers. We fully support the message of the week and hope that it has raised the profile of car crime, which is still a major problem. We urge people to make sure they check with HPI before they buy because it could spell the difference between a bargain and a banger."

### Stolen to order?

Many criminals who steal a vehicle will then attempt to sell it on to an unsuspecting buyer, the HPI Check is an invaluable tool to ensure you don't become a victim.

### Outstanding Finance

Outstanding finance continues to be a significant risk for used car buyers. The leading vehicle information provider is warning car buyers that if they unwittingly buy a car on outstanding finance, there is a very real chance that they will lose both the car and the money they paid for it, as the finance company still own the vehicle until the finance has been settled.

### Changing Plates

A personalised plate is a popular addition for many car owners, however, buyers should be warned that many crooks also use plate changes to try to obscure a vehicle's true past. An HPI Check will look at previous plates and identify any problems with the registration numbers previously associated with the vehicle. In addition, the HPI Check will also match the vehicle registration number with the vehicle's chassis number – any mismatches may indicate something is amiss with the vehicle.

### Clocking back the miles

Despite digital odometers being commonplace in cars today, these are proving no deterrent against clocking. Sellers may see the clocking of a vehicle as an easy way to make extra cash and the fact remains that clocking is still a big issue for consumers.

### Increase in write-offs

It's easy to be taken in by shiny paintwork and a low price, but many unscrupulous sellers will do anything to make a quick profit. The HPI Check will inform buyers not only if a vehicle has been written-off, but also provide the category of write-off, allowing them to make an informed decision.

To take advantage of HPI's Car Crime Awareness Week discount\* offer, simply log on to [www.hpicheck.com](http://www.hpicheck.com), or call the dedicated number 01722 422 422 and quote the reference number CCAWHPI when prompted for promotional code.

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# Property View

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sion including Annexe is situated close to Honiton on the southern edge of the Blackdown Hills.

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Pets and children will be considered with the property being available from early June at a rent of £1250 per calendar month.

For further information or to arrange a viewing contact Stags on 01404 42553 or visit [www.stags.co.uk](http://www.stags.co.uk).



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Ref: 32462



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